

# Service Life Prediction Program for Sealant Formulations

Chris White

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Building Materials Division

Gaithersburg, MD 20899

[Christopher.White@nist.gov](mailto:Christopher.White@nist.gov)



## In Modern Architecture, Sealant and Adhesives are Critical for Environmental Integrity



Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain

# Sealant and Adhesive

- Critical to modern building design
- 80% of assets are in constructed facilities
- Sealant and Adhesive materials cost is a small fraction of the total construction cost, but failure results in significant damage and repair cost.
- Failure of sealant is one of the most cited complaints in constructed facilities. “The windows leak” (NAHB)
- Current test methodologies do not allow for accurate prediction of service life, hence progress in increasing durability or decreasing time to market is much more difficult
- Other industries have seen a revolution, mm tolerance program in autos, airframes, in the way they do business. This may be coming to constructed facilities.
- NIST is developing better tools to assess durability of sealant and adhesive.
- These tools may become part of a new rating system for sealant and adhesive.



Who is NIST?





NIST is a non-regulatory federal agency within the Technology Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce. NIST's primary mission is to ***promote economic growth by working with industry to develop and apply technology, measurements, and standards***, and to maintain the Nation's measurements and standards infrastructure

NIST carries out its mission through four integrated programs:

Measurements  
and Standards  
Program

Advanced  
Technology  
Program

Manufacturing  
Extension  
Partnership  
Program

National Quality  
Program  
(Baldrige Award)







*...working with industry to develop and apply technology, measurements and standards*

3,300 Scientists, Engineers  
1,500 Visiting Scientists

Established in 1901  
1998 Nobel Prize in Physics

Four Missions:

- 1) World Leading Metrology- Standards (NIST traceable)
- 2) Increase Economic Competitiveness & Safety(American Industry)
- 3) Respond Quickly to Pressing National Needs
- 4) Facilitate Technical Innovation-ATP



# Service Life Prediction

## Current Reality:

Current methodology relies on one of two methods:

### Outdoor exposure

“This brings us face-to-face with one of the most perplexing problems concerned with outdoor weathering, that the weather does not duplicate itself. **How can one ever expect a laboratory method to duplicate the weather when the weather can never duplicate itself**”  
[Grinsfelder, 1967]

### or Laboratory exposure

“Successful laboratory simulation of the effects of weather on coatings, plastics and other materials has eluded scientists for over fifty years. Published literature report hundreds of attempts to duplicate and accelerate weathering effects and **conclude that there is no substitute for natural weathering** [Dreger, 1973]

“Current estimates of Service Life Prediction are Crude and there is Little or no Correlation between Laboratory and Field Exposure.” Rilem State of the art Report, 1999.

Currently, the Standard is Outdoor Weathering.



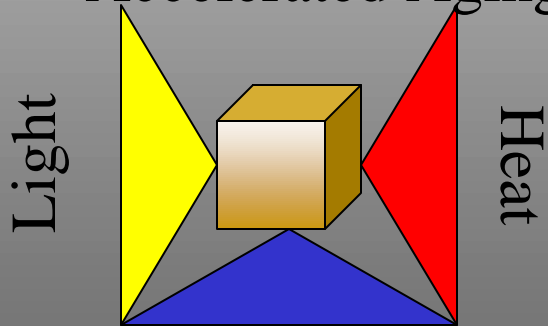
# Conventional SLP Metrology

Outdoor Aging



Make Comparison  
Outdoor  
Vs.  
Accelerated Aging

Accelerated Aging



Moisture



No Correlation;  
Adjust Accelerated  
Again Factors.



# Conventional Methodology:

Outdoor Exposure is the Standard of Performance

- Manufactures Dilemma:

Increase **Time to Profit** or Increase **Liability Exposure**

## Time to Profit

Coatings > 15 yr

IC Chip ~ 4 months

## Increased Liability

Fire Retardant Plywood

Polybutyldiene Pipe

Moisture Resistant Coatings

Automotive Clear Coats

Class Action  
Lawsuits

(4-6 \$B/yr. In warranty costs.)

Outdoor Weathering is Considered:

Slow, Expensive, Unreliable



# Class Action Lawsuits-

## Internet Removes Barriers to Organization, Significantly Increases **Scrutiny of Products.**

Please keep your messages on topic (i.e. relating to the peeling paint problem).

Messages Posted

- Can you afford your 50 yr warranty 50 yr Data?
- Can you put your faith in the science not the lawyers?

Re: Peeling Paint ('92 Camaro) - Randall Vogt 3/06/2000 (0)

peeling paint - Robert Ramirez 3/03/2000 (0)

'96 Dodge Caravan woes - Jackie 3/03/2000 (0)

92 buick lesabre paint - gary 2/28/2000 (0)

peeling paint - Paul and LuAnne Beckwith 2/26/2000 (1)

Re: peeling paint - Tim Segulin 2/28/2000 (0)

**94 Plymouth Voyager Peeling Paint - My Settlement - Keith Francis 2/22/2000 (0)**

90 Cherokee Limited(peeling paint,transmission problems,brake problems and more - phillis menschner 2/12/2000 (0)

Chrysler class action lawsuit - Stacy 1/04/100 (18)

Re: Chrysler class action lawsuit - Maston Pruett 2/29/2000 (0)

Re: Chrysler class action lawsuit - Bettye Heinrich 2/15/2000 (0)

Re: Chrysler class action lawsuit - Terri Greene 2/05/2000 (0)

Re: Chrysler class action lawsuit - Mary Ann Ryan 1/30/2000 (0)

Re: Chrysler class action lawsuit re Peeling Paint - Peter Schotting 1/30/2000 (3)

Re: Chrysler class action lawsuit re Peeling Paint - steve 1/31/2000 (2)

Re: Chrysler class action lawsuit re Peeling Paint - martha 2/07/2000 (1)

Re: Chrysler class action lawsuit re Peeling Paint - Ann Marie 2/15/2000 (0)

Re: Chrysler class action lawsuit - Robert Carr 1/10/100 (9)

Re: Chrysler class action lawsuit - mike l. parra 1/16/2000 (0)

Re: Chrysler class action lawsuit - Ray Johnson 1/12/100 (0)

Re: Chrysler class action lawsuit - JACOB MATHEW 1/11/100 (1)

Re: Chrysler class action lawsuit - patrick best 2/09/2000 (0)

Re: Chrysler class action lawsuit - mariea shelton 1/11/100 (4)



# Service Life Prediction

NIST Insight:  
The way the problem is defined,  
outdoor versus laboratory  
makes the problem intractable.

Has this problem occurred in other scientific fields?

Biology



# How do you think about skin exposure?

- **Dose** versus **Damage**.

- 1 hour x no sunscreen = 8 hours with SPF 8.

Two issues:

**Reciprocity**- Medical Literature over 19 orders of Magnitude

**Action Spectra** – Well Defined in the Literature.



# Biological Cumulative Damage Models

$$D_{total}(t) = \int_0^t \int_{\lambda_{min}}^{\lambda_{max}} E_o(\lambda, t) (1 - 10^{-A(\lambda)}) \phi(\lambda) d\lambda dt$$

- $D_{total}(t)$  = Damage to material.
- $\lambda_{min}$  and  $\lambda_{max}$  = minimum and maximum photolytically effective wavelengths
- $E_o(\lambda, t)$  = spectral UV irradiance from light source
- $(1 - 10^{-A(\lambda)})$  = spectral adsorption of specimen
- $\phi(\lambda)$  = spectral quantum yield of specimen
- $A(\lambda)$  = adsorption at wavelength  $\lambda$

DOSE

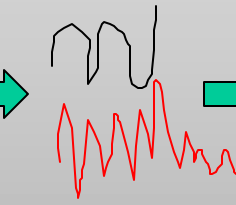


# Reliability-Based SLP Methodology

Instrumented Outdoor Exposure



Time Series



Temperature  
RH, UV

Cumulative Damage  
Model

$$D_{total}(t) = \int_0^t \int_{l_{min}}^{l_{max}} E_v(l, t) (1 - 10^{-A(l)}) f(l) dl dt$$

Material Response  
Laboratory  
Moisture  
Temperature

Databases

SLP Estimate

## Example: NIST Coatings Consortia

- Apply Cumulative Damage Models to Organic Coatings.
- Develop metrology to quantify Damage, Dose, Color, Gloss.
- Design Laboratory Exposure Devices that capture and control “real world” conditions:
  - Temperature, Relative Humidity, UV wavelength, UV Dose.
- Instrument Outdoor Exposure Sites
  - Temperature, Relative Humidity, UV wavelength, UV Dose.
- Use data from both Laboratory and Outdoor sites, historical experiments to build database/computer models of SLP.



# Coatings Consortia:

- Started 1994, renewed in 1997, 8 companies are currently members.
- New Technologies Created:
  - High Precision Temperature/Humidity Generator.
  - UV exposure device- Intergrating Sphere.
  - Solarnet exposure sites.
- Continued Investment by Industrial Partners.

Why is NIST interested in Sealants?



# Housing and Urban Development.



<http://www.Pathnet.org/>

Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing – PATH.  
80% of Assets are in Constructed Facilities.

The construction industry has not realized the value that programs like mm tolerance program in automotive, airframes have given other industries.

Both industries were spurred by foreign competition.



# Path Goals by 2010:

## 1.AFFORDABILITY

Reduce the monthly cost of new housing by 20 percent or more

## 2.ENERGY-EFFICIENCY and ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Cut the environmental impact and energy use of new housing by 50 percent or more and reduce energy use in at least 15 million existing homes by 30 percent or more.

## 3.DURABILITY

Improve durability and reduce maintenance costs by 50 percent.

## 4.DISASTER RESISTANCE and SAFETY

Reduce by at least 10 percent the risk of loss of life, injury, and property destruction from natural hazards and decrease by at least 20 percent residential construction work illnesses and injuries.



# Durability of Housing Materials and Systems.

- Which materials or systems are the most problematic?
- March 1999, NIST asked NAHB to verify the proposed durability research needs and directions.
- For NIST/PATH-D the report confirmed two serious problematic areas:

Roofing Materials

Sealants



# Sealant and Adhesive Program

- Can we adapt the program we have in Service Life Prediction of coatings to Sealant and Adhesive?
- Important Factors in Durability of Sealants (Rilem, ASTM):
  - Temperature, Humidity, UV exposure, Load.
  - Factors must be cyclically interrelated.



# Current Durability Standards are Go/No Go

ASTM 3 Test methods:

- C 719 STM for Adhesion and Cohesion of Elastomeric Joint Sealants Under Cyclic Movement. (Hockman Cycle)
- C1442- Standard Practice for conducting Test on Sealant using Artificial Weathering Apparatus
- C 1246- STM for Effect of Heat Aging on Weight Loss, Cracking and Chalking of Sealants after Cure





# ASTM- C 719 Hockman Cycle

- Developed at NIST 30 years ago.
- Static Cure of sealant joint 21 days.
- Immersion in water, for 7 days,
- Oven(7 Days)
- Cyclic movement @ room temp.
- Movement at Elevated Temp
- Evaluate with **Visual Inspection**.

Does this really match in-service life?



# Vision:

- Provide a PATH that would eliminate a majority of the weatherproofing problems in Residential housing.
- Metrology for accurate, rapid determination of the durability of new or existing sealant formulations
- Database of sealant durability allows for distinction between products to help guide consumer choice
- Database of sealant durability will serve as an early component for Integrated Decision Support System for Durability in Housing, (Economic Analysis)



# How do we get to Reliability Based SLP?

The first thing to do is write a plan.

NES/ASTM E632 Protocol



Elements of a Standard Methodology for Service Life Prediction

- Characterize the service environment
- Characterize the material, component, or system
- Identify the degradation mechanisms
- Develop a model for predicting the rate of degradation
- Define the failure criterion
- Using the model, calculate the time to failure
- Prepare a report of the results in standard format stating clearly the assumptions made



# Industrial Outreach.

## NIST

### Strengths:

- Resources,
- Equipment,
- Great Metrology
- Focus on Basic Mechanisms
- Neutrality
- International and National Contacts
- Huge Intellectual Resource Pool.

### Opportunities:

- Little knowledge about Sealant Formulations, sample design, sample preparation.
- Little Existing Weathering data on Sealants.

## Industry

### Strengths:

- Great Knowledge of Sealant Formulations of Sealant Formulations
- Existing Weathering Data
- Access to Warranty Data.

### Opportunities:

- Ability to gain new exposure tools, protocols.
- Ability to influence new standards development
- Ability to significantly increase durability.



# Relative Roles:

## NIST

- Metrology
- Coordination
- Development of Tools
  - Indoor
  - Outdoor
  - Modeling
- Testing
- Verifying
- Standards Development
- Data integrity and access

## Industrial Partners

- Sample Selection
- Sample Geometry
- Reservoir of Existing Data
  - Warranty Information
  - In-House Studies
- Depth of Experience

What are the major factors  
that affect durability?



# Important Factors in Durability

What are the Factors that Most Affect Sealant Durability?

From 1999 State of the Art Report: (Rilem/ASTM)

- Moisture/Relative Humidity.
- Temperature
- UV
- Load

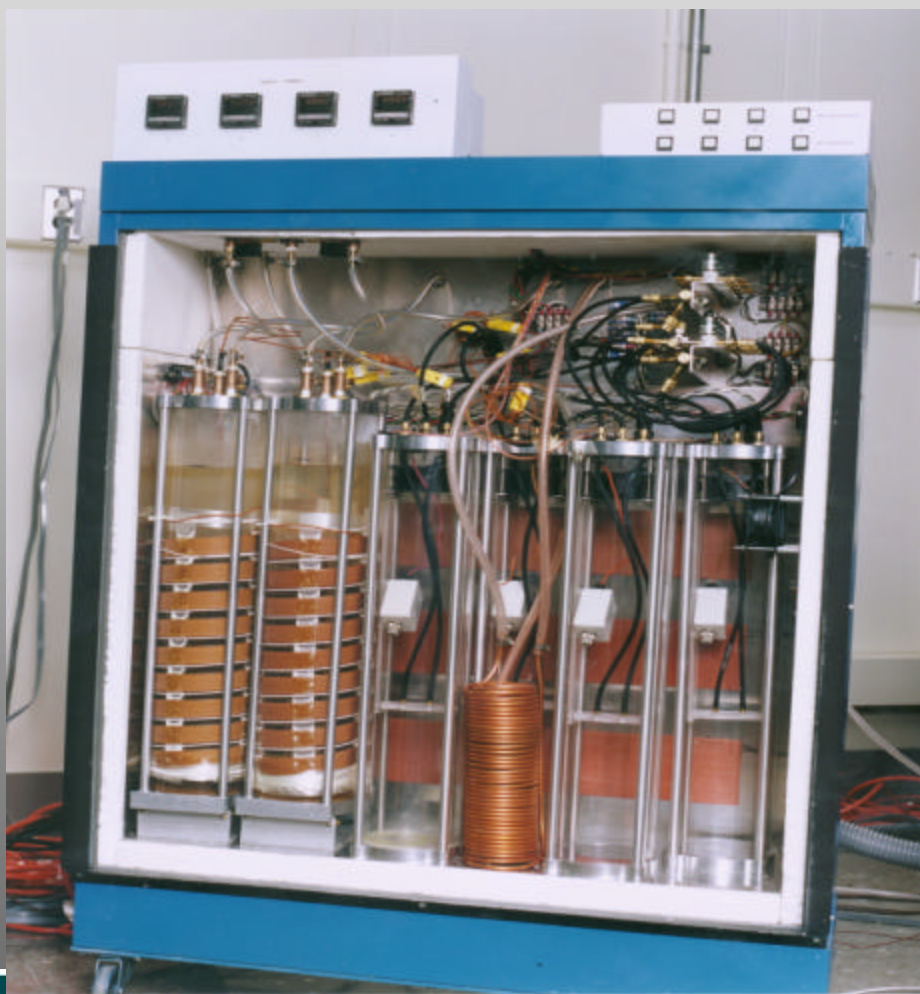
The factors must be cyclically interrelated, even during cure.



What tools do we need?



# Temperature/Relative Humidity Generator



- Temperature and Relative Humidity Control is of Paramount Importance
- Developed an Apparatus capable of generating four relative humidities between 0% and 90% at one temperature between 25 C and 60 C.
- Temporal Stability
  - Temperature control  $\pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$
  - Relative Humidity  $\pm 1\% \text{ r.h.}$



## Product: Novel Integrating Sphere



- 2 M Integrating Sphere Exposure Device
  - High Flux -8,400 W UV radiation.
  - Large sample area- 300-500 samples
  - 95% exposure uniformity between samples
- Visible and Infrared Radiation removed
- UV-radiation broken down into wavebands
- Temperature and relative humidity around specimens well controlled
- Measurements of exposure conditions and degradation response highly automated
- Reasonable cost of equipment relative to exposure area

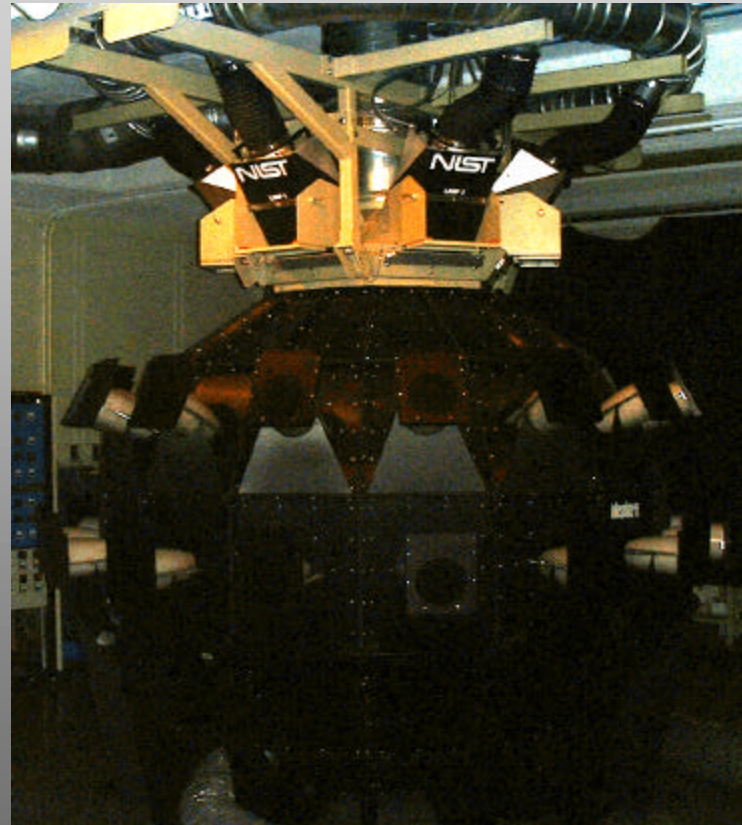


# UV Star goes Lights ON!!

Previous



Current.



# Methods of Measuring Durability



- Current Method: Visual Inspection
- What Properties are Important for the Seal Integrity?

The ability of the sealant to accommodate relative motion between two or more supporting surfaces.

- Measure the Rheological Properties.

Produce a known deformation, and measure the force.

“Stress Strain Curves” or Modulus.



# Prototype Sealant Tester

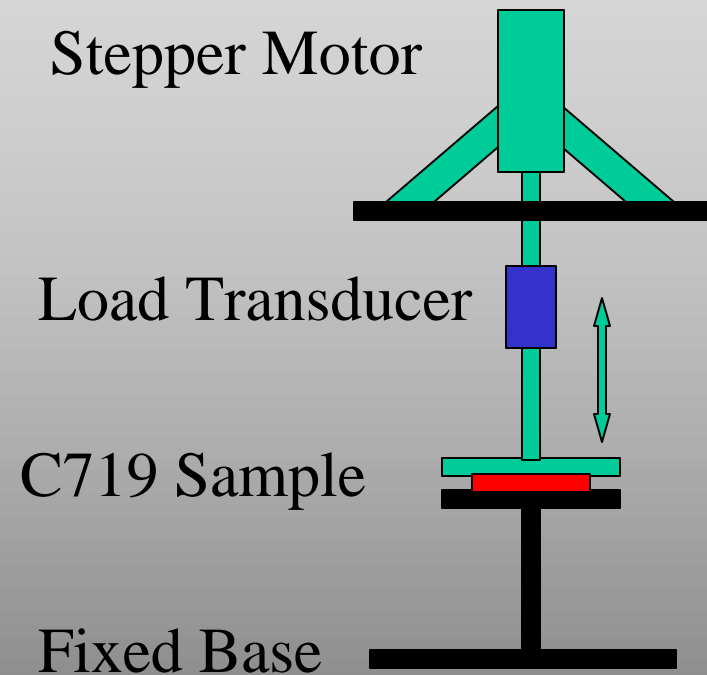
Produce Known Deformation  
Measure the Force

$$\frac{\text{Stress}}{\text{Strain}} = \text{Modulus}$$

What's New?

ASTM C719 relies on **forensic visual inspection**.

This device will **measure the performance** of the sealant continuously, allowing for detailed description of the failure mechanism.



## Design Apparatus and Initiate Experiments on Sealants



- Device has been assembled
- Evaluation of the device has begun.
- Exciting new capability in the evaluation of performance, every cycle, every sample.
- The trips to Dow Corning, DAP assist in sample preparation issues.
- First issue to be examined will be the effect of movement during cure.

# Proposed Full Scale Sealant Tester

Use Computer to  
Control:

Temp, Humidity

UV, Displacement

Monitor: Force

- 30-50 Samples
- 10x aging.
- May be 4 separate chambers.  
= 200 samples

Death Star  
Light source

Temp,  
Humidity  
Generator

Stepper motors

Integration Sphere



# Service Life Prediction

## Indoor Tools

Humidity Generators  
Temperature Controllers  
UV Exposure  
Motion Controllers  
Force Monitoring  
Sample Holders  
Cyclically Interrelated

## Outdoor Tools

Humidity  
Temperature  
UV Monitors  
Sample Holders

## Modeling Tools

Data Base  
Organization  
Storage  
Analysis  
Predicative Tools



# Acceleration Factors

How do we Accelerate the Aging?

Temperature	Raise the Temperature.
Deformation	Increase the Deformation- Superposition
UV	Increase the UV- Cumulative Damage
Humidity	What about Humidity?

How do they work in conjunction?

When do these factors change, how long does it take?



# Characterize the Material



The factors change at Dawn and at Dusk. What happens:

$\Delta$ Temperature

$\Delta$ Deformation

$\Delta$ UV

$\Delta$ Humidity

Thermal Measurements

Rheological Response

Instantaneously

Hyden Moisture Analyzer

The slowest rate of change determines how fast a deformation cycle can be.

Lets say dawn or dusk takes 1 hour.

Acceleration factor of  $\sim 10$ .

What conditions should we use?





# Moist

Moist is a database program.

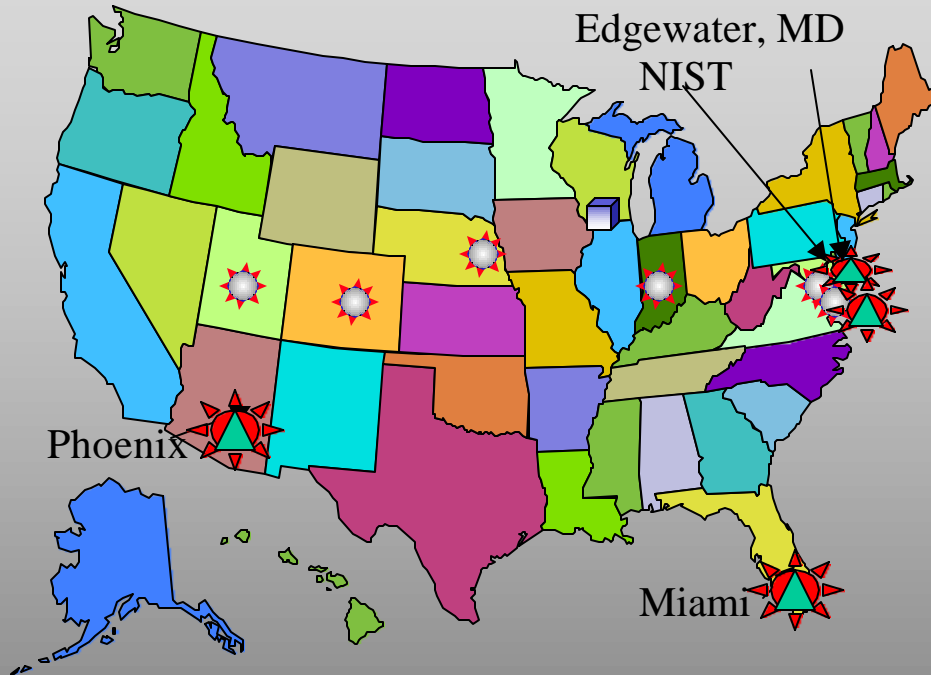
Can Simulate the weather each of the seven major climatic regions identified by NOAA and ASHRAE.




Use this data for the inputs for the control program.

This allows us to realistically simulate the climate (**seasonal variation, daily variation**) for any one of the monitored cities



# Solar Net Exposure Sites:



- 4 sites; spectral solar UV data collected since 1997 
- USDA is adding 6 more sites  to network
- Forest Products Laboratory 2000. 
- Corporate Sites?

What is monitored?

- Humidity
- Temperature
- UV (dose, wavelength)
- Sample Holders



FPL



# Additional Comments

There are three factors to increase durability:

- Material Durability
  - Proper Joint Design
  - Proper Installation
- NIST/FPL
  - FPL
  - SWRI

Can we integrate these into a  
“High Performance Sealant?”



# High Performance Sealant Rating

Higher Initial Cost:

- Certified Installers
- Proper Joint Design
- Materials that meet a Durability Threshold

Receive:

Economic Analysis of Lifetime Cost Savings Estimate.

Lower Maintenance Costs.

Better Warranty? Guarantee?

Better Joint Performance.



# [3.1] Durability Rating System

## Round Table (5/26/00)

- Private sector round table at NAHB-RC
- Builders liked the idea of a rating system
- Product manufacturers were divided

## Conclusion and Action

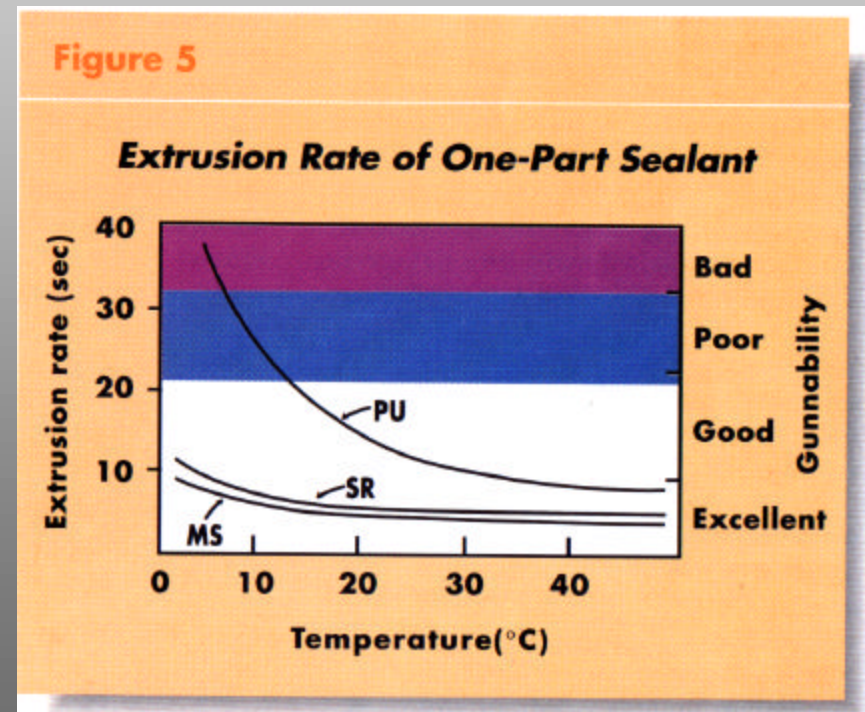
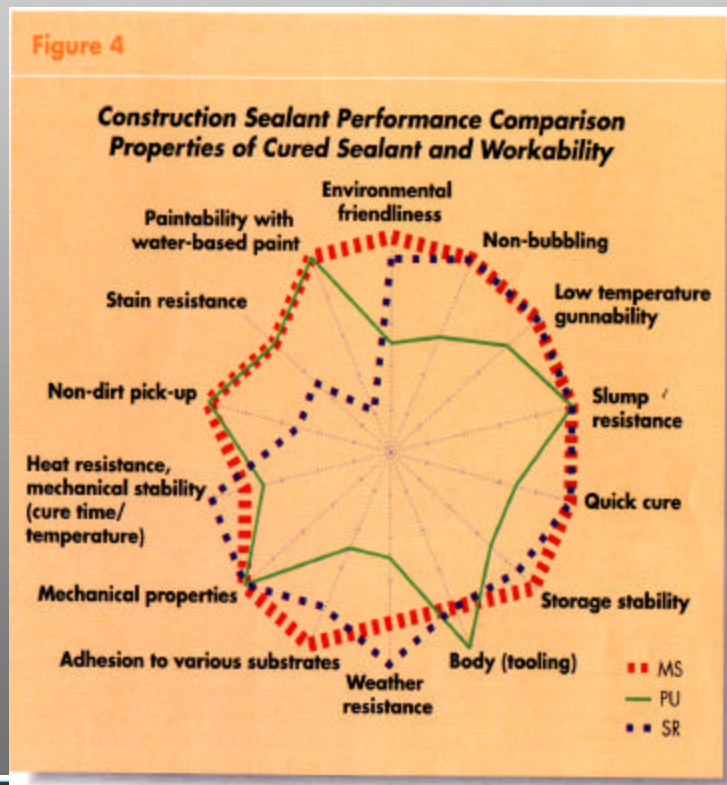
- A prototype multi-attribute product evaluation system will be developed, with joint sealants being featured in the first demonstration



## [3.1] Possible rating systems:

An article describing how MS (silyl-terminated polyethers) compares to existing formulations:

\*



\*

## [3.2] Decision Support System (I)

- A critical element of the program
- It must:
  - be of the highest integrity
  - be authoritative and well-indexed
  - be interoperable, easily accessible, and user-friendly
  - integrate results from the other PATH-D activities
- BFRL ‘customer’ needs workshop held on June 2
- Prototype system being developed





# Vision:

- Provide a PATH that would eliminate a majority of the weatherproofing problems in Residential housing.
- Metrology for accurate, rapid determination of the durability of new or existing sealant formulations
- Database of sealant durability allows for distinction between products to help guide consumer choice
- Database of sealant durability will serve as an early component for Integrated Decision Support System for Durability in Housing, (Economic Analysis)





# NIST SWOT

## Strengths

- Industrially Relevant Research
- Easy to Defend in Congress

## Weaknesses

- Lots of Extra Work for Little Payoff
- Lots of Voices for Research Direction

## Opportunities

- Raise the Bar on Sealant Durability
- Significantly Reduce Liability Exposure
- Significantly Reduce Building Maintenance Costs.
- Significant Advances in Metrology Bringing Science to Weathering.

## Threats

- Entrenched Test Methods
- **Perceived Threat to Specific Formulations**
- “Corporate Welfare”
- **Change**



# Industry SWOT

## Strengths

- Leveraging Federal Resources
  - People
  - **Funding 10(fed):1(Industry)**
  - Equipment
- Ability to Influence Future Standards Development

## Weaknesses

- Perception: Not relevant to our needs.
- Perception: Lots of extra work for little payoff

## Opportunities

- **Shorter Product Development Cycles**
- Raise the Bar on Sealant Durability
- Significantly Reduce Liability Exposure
- Significantly Reduce Building Maintenance Costs.
- Eliminate Duplication of Efforts
- Level Playing Field.

## Threats

- Entrenched Test Methods
- **Perceived Threat to Specific Formulations**
- Perceived loss of Confidentiality of Proprietary Information
- Level the Playing Field

## Why have we been successful with Consortia.

- We are **partners**.
- Involved, commitment to program.

### NIST

Accept two year publication ban  
Fundamental Industrial Needs

### Industry

Financial Commitment  
Share Information

Commit time and resources to staying in touch on time on plan



# NIST Service Life Prediction METHODOLOGY

## Materials

Asphalt

Sealants #

Bulk Plastics

Coatings\*

Composites #

Roofing \*

Siding

Textiles

## Metrologies

- Appearance #
- Environmental Characterization
- Interfaces and Interphases \*
- Nano-Scale Characterization
- Automation of Experiments.

\* Consortium completed, in progress, or will be established within 6 months

# Consortium will most likely be established within 1 1/2 y

Thank you

Questions?

